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TOUCHDOWN...

RAIDERS WIN BIG IN FOOTBALL SEASON OPENER

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PHOTO BY STAN MADDUX

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Female dies in Lakewood Estates fire

A female is deceased after an early-morning fire at Lakewood Estates near Three Oaks.

According to a Berrien County Sheriff's Office press release made by D/Lt Sean Soulard, at approximately 4:36 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and the Chikaming Township Fire Department were dispatched to a structure fire inside Lakewood Estates Manufactured Homes at 8000 Warren Woods Rod in Three Oaks.

"Upon arrival Mark Tuszynski (59 years old) a resident was standing outside, suffering from smoke inhalation. Tuszynski stated that there was another person inside the residence who could not get out. Tuszynski was transported to the Franciscan Hospital in Michigan City, Indiana, for treatment," the release stated.

"Deputies from the Berrien County Sheriff's Office attempted to enter the structure, but the smoke and heat was too much. Chikaming Township Fire was able to extinguish the fire with the assistance of New Buffalo Township Fire," the release continued.

The Michigan State Police Fire Investigation Unit was called in to investigate the cause and origin of the fire. The body of Dawn Popp, a 62-year-old female, was found inside the residence during the investigation.

The Western Michigan Medical Examiner's Office will conduct an autopsy.

Other agencies involved were the Michigan State Police Medical Examiner Office, Chikaming Police Department, Medic 1 Ambulance, Berrien County Victim Services and Chaplin Services. — **STAFF REPORTS**

Is that weird, taking my Louis Vuitton bag camping?
— Jessica Simpson

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
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L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

SCHOLASTICS

Bid process for elementary kitchen project has been extended

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The New Buffalo Elementary School kitchen/cafeteria bid process has been extended until Sept. 7, members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education learned at their Monday, Aug. 28, meeting.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said The Skillman Corporation recommended that they keep the bidding process open until then because they haven't received that many. He added that he hopes to award some bids at their Sept. 25 meeting.

Last weekend, each district door was assessed for electronic key cards and the company will be putting together a Request for Proposal (RFQ), which will ensure that they get accurate proposals and know what the cost will be for the district transitioning to the key cards. By the Sept. 25 meeting, Bowen said he hopes to have bond information.

"The bond will be based on the elementary kitchen bid project along with the electronic key cards," he said.

The elementary rooftop HVAC project is almost complete, as all units have been installed. The larger units for the commons area, office and media center are on back order and the estimated shipping date is between January and March.

With regards to the district's Planned Unit Development (PUD) that will be located across from the elementary school on Lubke Road, Bowen said that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is being reviewed by both the township's and the district's legal counsels and that there'll be a meeting between the school board's executive committee, the legal counsel and the township before the RFQ is released to the public.

Regarding the portion of the parcel on Lubke Road that will be separate from the PUD and will be used for the next house for the Building Trades class, Bowen said the hole has been dug and the foundation should be ready for the students when they return next week. Due to the high water table, there needed to be crawl space.

Board members approved the following adult breakfast and adult lunch prices for 2023-2024: adult breakfast district wide - $2.90, elementary adult lunch - $4.90, middle/high school adult lunch - $5.15 and district adult lunch gluten free - $5.25.

Board members approved the following positions: Amanda Beccera, BASE aide; Adam Forker, middle school football coach; Kerry Frum, food service substitute; Nicole Laberge, food service substitute; Ashley Timmons, food service and Courtney Wysocki, elementary custodian.

Bowen said they haven't been able to employ anyone in the position of high school English teacher; however, he said that after meeting with middle school principal Dan Caudle and high school principal Tracy Ripley, they decided that current staff members will be able to "absorb" the students "without having that extra English teacher."

Board members discussed amending Policy #5710 Suicide Prevention Policy.

Bowen said the suicide prevention policy in the Thrun policies that they recently adopted isn't as comprehensive as the previous one and he and Hilary Cunninhgm, district social worker, are proposing that they replace their old policy with the current one.

Cunninghm said the former one has a reenter procedure, which ensures that they're receiving paperwork when the student has been discharged from an inpatient stay that states that the student is mentally stable to return. It also includes a safety plan, giving Cunningham and the building principal the ability to sit down with the parent and student and review it and, if necessary, make a safety plan for school that ensures they're doing their "best to support them after they've had a hospital stay."

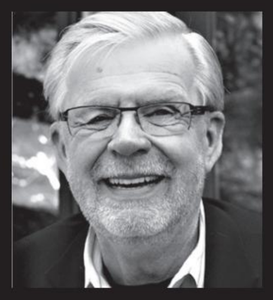
She added that it ensures that she's covering all the bases and "notifying the right people" and ensures when a student is "coming back that they are safe and we're able to support them."

Board members approved a Thrun Board Policy update to Policy #5707 - School Wellness, which prevents "lunch shaming."

Inspiration is hard to come by. You have to take it where you find it.
— Bob Dylan

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

There's an old joke that goes something like, I went to a fight the other night and a hockey game broke out.

Hockey games were becoming increasingly violent and while many fans enjoyed the rough and tumble style of play, many potential fans chose to dismiss the sport because the really good players were not able to display their skills. So, the people in charge changed some of the rules and attempted to legislate violence out of the game. They had to be very careful so they didn't lose the fans who appreciated the roughness of the sport, and still allow the really skilled players to flourish. Hockey did a good job.

As violent as football is, the leaders of the sport are doing a good job of curbing the extra-curricular shenanigans. The size, strength and physical play going on in basketball seems like it would lead to more fights, but so far so good.

Baseball has its share of skirmishes including a pretty nasty donnybrook at Guaranteed Rate Field when one of the Cleveland players took exception to the tag made by the White Sox shortstop so punches were thrown and players were suspended. So anyway, while most team sporting events are peaceful, the things that transpire in the stands seem to be going the other way.

Starting in little league or even before, some people have such a strong desire to win that it clouds their judgment. The participants play the game, and the peanut gallery yells at the umps, the kids on the other team, or even their own team. Most people still adhere to the axiom that it doesn't matter if you win or lose, it's how you play the game that counts, but the few who don't can cause an awful lot of trouble. Throughout my life, I've witnessed people in the audience trying their best to be part of the show. Musically, people are now throwing things at the performers. Because there isn't a competition, I just don't understand why on earth anyone would stoop so low.

The worst case of fans misbehaving took place in Chicago last week when three people were shot while watching a game at Guaranteed Rate Field. After the game ended, there was going to be a concert. The headliner was going to be Vanilla Ice, but after the shooting they said that the concert was being postponed due to technical difficulties. While investigators aren't saying who fired the shots or even where the shots came from, if you can't even go to a ballgame without looking over your shoulder, we have a serious problem in this country.

The NFL season begins in less than two weeks. Look for the Bears, Lions, and Vikings to pass the Packers this season with the Lions and Bears making the playoffs. I'm a big fan of Ryan Poles and coach Matt Eberflus and I believe the Bears will be a playoff team often in the coming years.

Winston S. Churchill said, "Success is not final; failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Everybody always talks about my footwork, my skills, they don't understand I got that dog in me. They don't understand that.
— Shakur Stevenson

Raiders win big in football season opener

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders started the high school football season better, perhaps, than last year's strong finish.

The Raiders, who won six of their last seven games last season, defeated Bloomingdale Aug. 24 at home 74-14.

The game was practically over early thanks to Owen Slavens and N'mason Smothers, who are both new players on this year's varsity team.

Slavens, a high school track star at River Valley High School, used his speed at running back to score two touchdowns each on long gains in the first quarter.

Smothers, who's on the track team at New Buffalo High School, intercepted a first quarter pass and used his speed to return the ball 40 yards for a touchdown.

Head coach Matt Johnson said it was the type of fast start he was looking for in a team he believes can win as many games, if not, more than last year's 6-3 squad.

"We were hoping to get a good win in," he said.

Slavens finished with 277 yards on 11 carries and four touchdowns.

Quarterback Ethan Lijewski completed six of 10 passes for 91 yards and had one touchdown, while fullback Ryan Wolnik gained 52 yards on seven carries and caught two passes for 55 yards.

Wolnik also scored two touchdowns.

The defense was led by Payton Lijewski, who had six tackles, one sack and a fumble recovery for a touchdown.

The defense also held Bloomingdale offense to 172 total yards.

Despite the score, Johnson said he was not totally happy with his team's performance, citing mistakes such as missed blocks that better teams will be able to use to their advantage.

"I felt like we just were missing some execution points here and there," he said.

Johnson said it was nice to see Slavens, who hadn't played football since middle school, perform without seemingly missing a beat.

"That was a good game for him to kind of get his feet wet and realize not only is he a fast kid but he's a fast kid in football," he said.

A lot of high school sporting events in the area were cancelled that day because of extremely hot and humid conditions.

The Raiders season opener was just pushed back for one hour because of a weather forecast calling for temperatures to begin dropping.

As predicted, the conditions started becoming more comfortable at kick-off.

"I think it was a wise decision. There's a little breeze kicking up," said New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen.

Bowen said rescheduling the game would have posed some challenges because of potential scheduling conflicts with the New Buffalo High School soccer team, which plays on the same football field.

Such a move also could have interfered with the schedules of referees with no guarantees of finding replacements, he said.

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Lady Bison off to fast start in volleyball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School girls' volleyball team is off to a strong start to the season.

The Lady Bison (3-1-2) defeated Michigan Lutheran at home Wednesday, Aug. 30, in a five-set match.

Head Coach Bruce Molineaux said he expects his experienced team to win the conference title for their division even though Michigan Lutheran, River Valley and Our Lady of the Lake are just some of the strong teams in a conference expected to once again be very competitive from top to bottom.

"All of our hitters are back from last year," he said.

The challenge for the Lady Bison at least early on appears to be defense since many defenders from last year's squad graduated.

Adjusting to new players on defense seemed to show against Michigan Lutheran when Lady Bison players during the first two sets allowed several balls to go unreturned from lack of communication on the floor.

"When you get into game time it's whoever makes the less mistakes," Molineaux said.

The Lady Bison won two of the first three sets, which were all decided by four points or less.

However, Michigan Lutheran took the fourth set by 25-13.

The match was decided when the Lady Bison won the final set 15-9.

On offense, the team was led by senior Ava Johnson, who racked up 19 assists as the team's starting setter and junior Jane Funk.

Funk, as she did many times last season, led the team in kills with 19.

Cassidy Saunders, a junior, had 10 kills.

Defensively, the team was led by junior Meagan Fatter with 20 digs and Funk with 13 digs.

Junior Riley Tertel and sophomore Colleen Chlystun contributed 12 digs apiece.

The Lady Bison finished in second place behind River Valley during a tournament last week at Eau Claire then defeated Lawrence in three sets on the road Monday.

To win the conference title, Molineaux said the team needs to make fewer mistakes.

Balls served into the net and missed strikes on good scoring opportunities hurt the Lady Bison at times in their victory over Michigan Lutheran.

"Consistency. Simple things like getting the serves in and passing the ball. We do those two things then we'll be able to get some good kills out of our hitters," he said.

Woman attends first golf tournament at 103

BY STAN MADDUX

A LaPorte area woman has been a huge fan of professional golf for much of her life but never went to a PGA tournament until recently at the age of 103.

Susan Cichon said attending the tournament in Olympia Fields, Illinois, last month was a birthday present from her son, Bob, and granddaughters, Julia and Jill.

The same family members were behind 12 professional golfers, on video, singing "Happy Birthday" to her on her 100th birthday.

"Now that I'm 103 they just thought, 'Let's continue with this,'" she said.

During the tournament, Cichon said she met her favorite professional golfer, Rickie Fowler, along with other golfers like Rory McElroy and Tommy Fleetwood.

"Made me very, very happy," she said.

Cichon, nicknamed "Grandma Susie," said she grew up in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

She was 21 when she relocated to LaPorte because

her boyfriend, who she later married, was from there.

Cichon said she uses a walker just occasionally and still lives at home. She keeps busy with things like housework, with help from her son, who moved in with her.

Her late husband, Edward, played golf, but she never did.

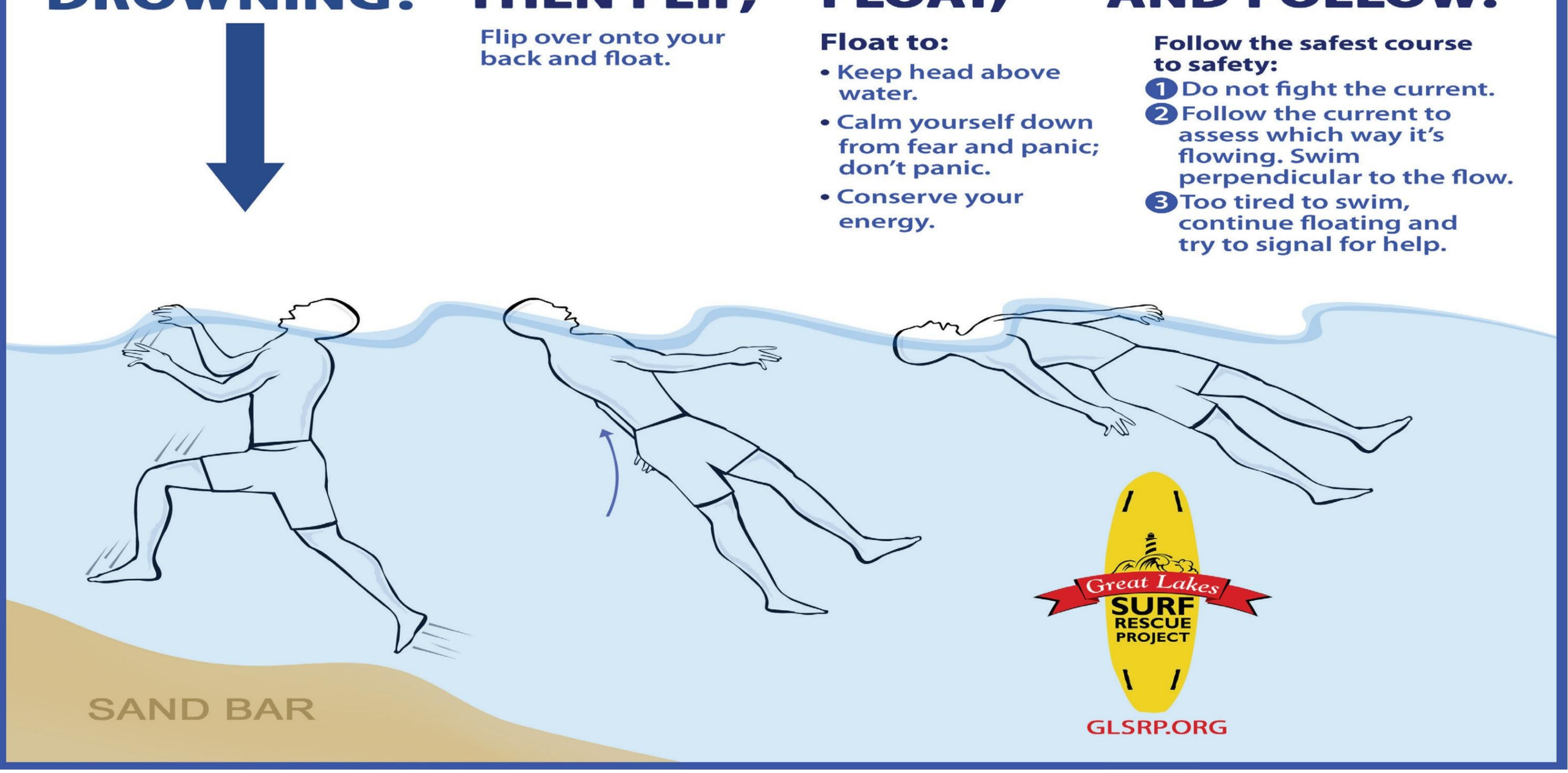
Cichon said she had plans to play for the first time years ago with her husband but after he teed off she realized she couldn't use his right handed clubs.

She needed a left-handed set but was not able to find any left-handed clubs to purchase, so she never addressed her ambition to play again.

"I just completely got it out of my mind that I would do any golfing but I watched it and I enjoy it. I enjoy the peace. I enjoy the sportsmanship," she said.

Cichon said she has no secrets to share for living such a long life

"I cannot answer that question because I feel that I was just as normal as everybody else and did whatever everybody would do. I never thought I would live this long but here I am," she said.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Chikaming Open Lands unveils newest Buchanan preserve

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Everyone who had gathered at the dedication of Myron Perlman Nature Preserve, the newest preserve of Chikaming Open Land (COL), Sunday, Aug. 27, is now each one eighth billion owner of the property, Julie Dorfman, one of the property's former owners, said.

Located at 13829 Wolkins Road in Buchanan, the 45-acre property includes farm fields, wetlands, and hiking trails through a sprawling beech-maple forest. Other features include an abundance of spring wildflowers, an on-site cabin (no public entry), and plant biodiversity.

COL and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy worked with donors and partnered to protect the property. SWMLC holds a conservation easement on the land, while COL owns and manages the new nature preserve.

The property was donated to COL in full in December 2022 by the landowners, Dorfman, Jerry Herst and Anne Krantz, and was named in honor of Krantz's late husband, Myron Perlman.

Krantz thanked Dorfman and Herst, who, through their connections and activities related to nature education and conservation, made it a priority to slip the property into conversation and bring people to it.

When "things came to a halt" because of Covid, they continued to pursue its preservation.

Most of all, Krantz thanked them for naming the property after her late husband.

"I really consider this, as much as anything else, their legacy as well as Myron's," she said.

Myron was a very modest person, Krantz said.

"I think he would 'be very perplexed that a nature preserve has been named for him - I don't know if he'd be more perplexed by that or the fact you can type in Myron PER into Google maps," she added.

The house, which was built in the early 1980s, that sits on the property was a team effort that involved those who were skilled in construction - and those who weren't.

"He took all comers and he helped them figure out what they could do to be helpful...Myron had a true sense, a deep sense, of communal activity, working for the common good, of organizing against the theft of the commons," Krantz said.

(left) Jerry Herst, one of the former owners of the property, leads a crowd through a hike in the woods

The crowd gathers in front of the cabin on the preserve

Hiking down one of the preserve's trails

Jerry Herst tells the crowd about the property's storied history

One of those who was enlisted in the building process - despite her lack of construction skills - was Dorfman.

It was her dream to build a cabin in the woods; however, after being severely injured in a workers comp injury, she wasn't sure if she could be of much help.

Myron started "feeding her little task, though - negotiating prices, getting some bids and picking up flooring at the store.

"I was in a period where I couldn't do a lot, but Myron was able to find ways to include me, mentor me and teach me and by the time we finished the project I thought, 'Oh, I guess I can do construction management,'" she said, adding that they ensured that the house was environmentally friendly.

Jerry Herst said that he and Julie were "very pleased" when Myron first invited them out to their hideaway in the woods of southwestern Michigan.

Later, they were asked to be partners in their venture of building the house - which was meant with, after a "quick glance" between them, a resounding 'yes' from Jerry and Julie.

"Building a house together was a labor of love and it was the coming together experience communities shared on these lands 100 plus years ago with an old fashioned barn raising," he said.

They were able to build traditions from being on the property, such as gathering leek leaves to make potato leek soup every spring. Their children learned to gather timber and kindling and fuel to build a fire in the woods. They named different parts of the woods, such as "Beech Hill" and the "Emerald Valley."

Thanks to COL, Herst said that they were able to donate the property, including the woods and part of the field that they own and the house. In return, COL upgraded the loop trail and made some new trails to make it more attractive to hunters.

"It's now supremely fulfilling to have this gift of Chikaming Open Lands as our legacy for future generations - a fitting tribute to our dear friend Myron and for the health and preservation of one little corner of our Earth," Herst said.

Ryan Postema, COL executive director, said that,when he walked the forest, he knew that it needed to be protected and preserved.

The fact that the property is steeped in familial memories makes it even more valuable.

"Now, many generations of people will be able to come out and enjoy this property and walk the trails and connect with nature like the families first did when they bought the land and built the house," he said.

Guests meander down one of the preserve's trails

Family members involved with the property through the years pose next to the preserve sign

COL Executive Director Ryan Postema introduces everyone to the preserve

Guests hike through the preserve

Neon Moon Gelato offers galaxy of gelatos, sweet treats

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Seeing as how they're lovers of unique finds that are of both the old and more modern variety, it would make sense that Nichole Rairigh and her partner, Max,would open a new gelato shop in an historic building in downtown Union Pier.

According to Rairigh, Neon Moon Gelato is located in a building (which used to house Izzy's Bean and Gelato Shop) that was built around the late '20s and early '30s.

"We chose Union Pier because we've been coming here for well over a decade to vacation and enjoy the beautiful beach and then we bought the cottage and fell in love with the year round living and from there decided to commit 100% and open up a business," she said.

The name reflects her and Max's deep love for the area.

"I think it's appropriate for Michigan - the sky, the water and the stargazing and all of that," Rairigh said.

Currently, Neon Moon Gelato boasts 23 different gelato flavors, although Nichole said they plan to increase that next summer to roughly 30. Seasonal flavors may be offered as well. Youngest daughter Macy, who, with the oldest daughter, Ashor, will help run the store, already has the seasonal menu planned "all the way through next year," Rairigh said.

Neon Moon Gelato's supplier is the Fennville, Michigan-based Palazollo's Artisan Dairy. Non-dairy and gluten free options are also offered, and sugar free will be offered.

Customers can enjoy the flavors in a variety of ways, from a single-scoop "Little Dipper" to the triple-scoop "Asteroid."

This winter, customers may be able to get scoops of gelato to go along with all the toppings.

Macy is working on shakes and smoothies. Customers will be able to incorporate the flavor of the week into a shake. Customers can get their gelato in a vegan, gluten free Galaxy Cone. Rairigh said they have chocolate, birthday cake and vanilla cones packaged for retail, so customers can take them home and create their own out of this world treat.

Customers can also purchase drinks, such as the Mexican fruit soft drink Jarritos, candy and the prepackaged Palazollo's gelato.

While enjoying their gelato, customers can browse the sun room. There, they'll find items from artisan makers from Michigan and elsewhere. Since they have traveled quite bit, Rairigh said she and Max plan to have a "constant flow of new inventories" from the state as well as their trips to Mexico and India.

Items will include antiques as well as some newer ones (including possibly Union Pier merchandise).

"Just to bring that experience to the customer, so that when they're here having their vacation, they can pick up something unique and special that reminds them of their stay," Rairigh said.

The larger plan is to renovate the former hotel, the Pumpernickel Inn, that's part of the building, so there'll be a six bathroom and six-bedroom hotel. Guests can visit the sun room, which will be a gift shop.

"The hotel will be named the Starlight Inn or Starlight Hotel - we want to do the sun and the moon and the stars," Rairigh said.

Before opening Neon Moon Gelato, Rairigh attended fashion design school at Columbia College in Chicago. She started a company called Apparel Agency, a B2B business for apparel brands. Max has a background in vintage apparel sales.

Making the move to the gelato and antique business – and Michigan – is a new adventure that they've embraced, though.

"We really love the community, we love to provide unique services - we like the idea of a gelato and retail shop and the opportunity of a hotel and all that has to offer," Rairigh said.

Neon Moon Gelato is located at 16090 Red Arrow Highway in Union Pier. Current hours of operation are 2-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, visit www.neonmoongelato.com.

A view of Neon Moon Gelato from Red Arrow Highway

Chamber executive assistant Patty Knicker, Max, Macy and Nichole Rairigh and Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte welcome Neon Moon Gelato

A view of the sun room at Neon Moon Gelato

Customers choose their gelato at the counter

Family farm more historic than current owner believed

BY STAN MADDUX

A Rolling Prairie area man knew his farm had been in the family for a long time but he didn't know just how deep his roots there extended until doing some research in recent months.

As is turned out, the Mrozinski farm established in 1881 was among 103 farms in the state recognized during the recent Indiana State Fair for being in the same family continuously for more than a century.

Nate Mrozinski, 38, said finding out more about the history of his farm was like an itch he could no longer keep from scratching as he became older.

He was also driven by a still standing barn erected on the family farm in 1930.

The builder was Fred White, who painted his name and the year it went up along with his place of residency inside the barn.

White was from nearby Galien, Michigan.

"Come to find out we've had the ground a lot longer than we've had the barn," Mrozinski said.

The farm can be recognized from a distance by the metal sided red barn and a windmill beside it.

Mrozinski did not how long the windmill has been standing but it's been there well before he was born.

"They used to pump water from it. It's still hooked up but the well's run dry," he said.

He said his father, Mark, and grandfather, Ed, who both died from cancer in 2010, shared some of the farm's history with him over the years but there were still plenty of information gaps he wanted to fill.

Mrozinski said he began his research at the La Porte County Recorder's Office to locate past deeds to the property and any other information he could find.

He then went online to uncover more history about the farm but there were some questions only relatives could answer.

Mrozinski said he learned that his great great-grandfather, Jacob Mrozinski, started the farm by purchasing 20 acres at 600 East and 700 North after coming from Poland.

The family farm owned by Mrozinski, his brother, Erik, and their sister, Morgan, has since grown to 400 acres and another 1,800 acres of rented ground spread over nearby Kankakee, Galena, Hudson and Wills townships and outside New Carlisle.

Corn, soybeans, cattle and alfalfa are among the things raised at the farm.

The state has declared the property a Hoosier Homestead Farm because of its age under a program recognizing farms in the same family for 100 to 200 years to help celebrate the heritage of agriculture in the state.

"I congratulate these Hoosier homesteaders for withstanding the test of time," said state Rep. Jim Pressel of Rolling Prairie.

After graduating from Purdue University with a degree in agricultural economics, Mrozinski became a custom applicator of fertilizer and pesticides for the Starke County Coop.

He later returned to the farm to work full time when his father and grandfather passed away.

Mrozinski, who also has early memories of his great grandfather, Louie, said it's a great feeling to have more of a complete picture of the farm's history.

He also happened to come across the names of cousins dating back to the farm's beginnings during his research.

"It gives you a sense of pride and it makes you happy to be able to continue on with a family legacy. It makes you want to keep going," he said.

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AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Your mental energy may get heavy with emotions and block your ability to accomplish work related tasks. You may have feelings that are unexpected and expressing them calmly may not be the easiest thing to do. Direct your energy into a creative expression rather than getting angry.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Projects and goals that were started earlier this year are beginning to take solid form now. You are seeing just enough results that will keep you motivated to see things to the finish. In matters of the heart, keep it light and simple. Let the affair be casual and try to spend more time with family.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Conflict with family is likely now. This "battle of wills" is really an opportunity to build trust. Take this time to bring up any long standing past hurts or issues. Really get it all out in the open. You will be pleasantly surprised that your feelings were heard, validated and it's now in resolution

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Resist your instinctual urge to hide in your shell. It is time to be bold and go for things you really want. A word of caution intimate relationships could get heavy fast now so be sure you know who and what you're getting before your in over your head. Get tensions out at the gym. No regrets.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Your magnetism and charm will get turned on full force this week putting some potential suitors in hot pursuit. You could get restless and feel like your mind is in over-drive. It could be difficult to hold back telling people exactly how you feel so try to hold back your most intimate thoughts quiet.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

You are in the process of bouncing back and breaking free from past tensions and obligations. It is important you embrace spontaneity and do something unusual. If coupled get closer by planning a new activity. If single, hang out somewhere different and talk to people you would normally shy from.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

It is time to get things off your chest and clear the air. You are not locked into anything or stuck with anyone. The energy that is moving at you is focused on closure and putting things to rest. Use this as an opportunity to detox and get out any bad feelings you have been carrying. The worst is over.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

You will be feeling more ambitious and talkative this week which will help you meet alluring strangers with exotic backgrounds that could have some unusual connections to places you are familiar with. This is going to be a week of new sensations and new experiences that somehow feel familiar.

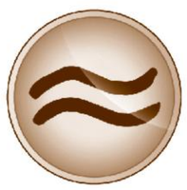
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Jealousy and dark emotions are not usually your thing but this week could get kind of strange. Be careful not to let a nice relationship move into a not so nice place. Things could get dangerous and hurtful of you do not use some self-monitoring. Avoid games and fetishes this week.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You've heard of the phoenix rising from the ashes? Well, that could be how you feel by weeks end. You could be put thru the fire so to speak and you may have to prove who you are and what you stand for in some way. This will free you from damaging obligations that have held you back.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



It is time to cleanse your karma in intimate relationships and free yourself from self-imposed debts. Take an honest look at yourself and use this as an opportunity to make serious changes in your response to committed relationships. That spark will come back when you let go of expectations.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

Romance can get very exciting now giving you an opportunity to learn how to be more direct and balanced in your relationships. Your input is important and deserves to be considered. Too often you let others run the show while you pay the bill. It is time to keep that wallet in your pocket.

The "situation" attends the person who accepts the circumstance and misguides the person who complains. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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	5	6					4	
	8		9	3				

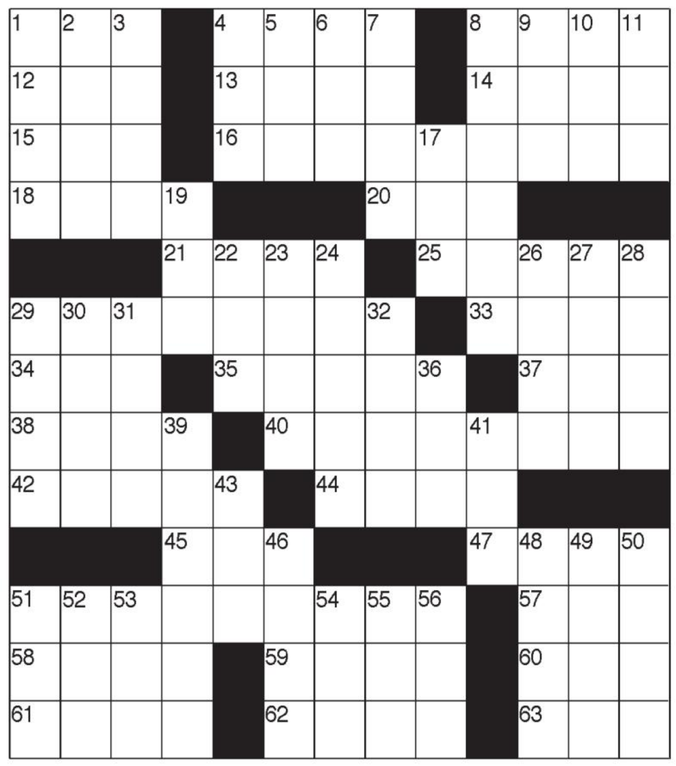
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

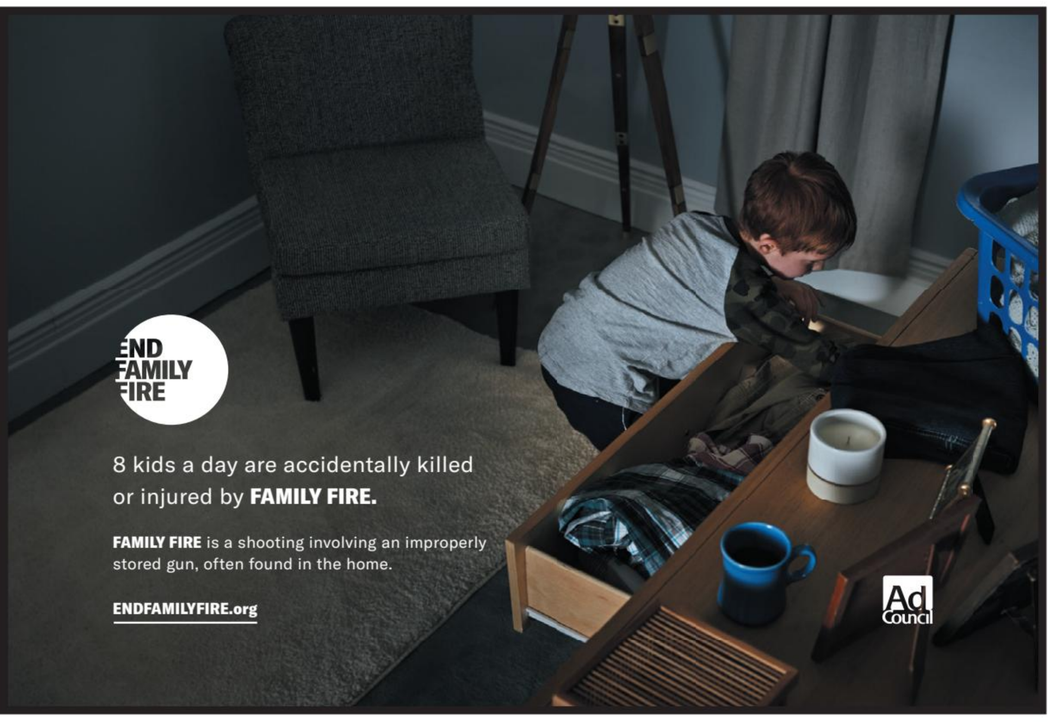
ACROSS

1 Bachelor of Hebrew Letters (abbr.)
4 Small lake
8 Down (pref.)
12 Poem
13 Mrs. (Ger.)
14 Slugger's stats
15 Doing business as (abbr.)
16 Cavalier
18 Gumbo
20 Yeomanry (abbr.)
21 Abundant supply
25 Garishness
29 College organization
33 In another manner
34 Former name of Tokyo
35 Remains of what is burned
37 A (Ger.)
38 Back
40 Wanted (2 words)
42 Balinese spear dance
44 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
45 Electroencephalc gram (abbr.)
47 Fine
51 At the same time
57 Sleep state (abbr.)
58 World's first auto in l885
59 Heb. measure
60 Lyric poem
61 Caucasian language
62 Muslim ship's captain
63 New (Ger.)

DOWN

1 Seaport in W. Norway
2 Handbook (abbr.)
3 Shakespearean king
4 Pfennig (abbr.)
5 Metal rock
6 Var. of Anna
7 Tariff
8 Louisiana people
9 Antiballistic missile (abbr.)
10 Aunt (Sp.)
11 Army service number (abbr.)
17 Side of triangle
19 Love (Lat.)
22 Individual retirement acct. (abbr.)
23 Unless, in law
24 People (pref.)
26 Lower intestine
27 Chin. dynasty
28 Parsi scripture
29 Slav
30 Concert halls
31 Cry loudly
32 Old name of Tokyo
36 Selected (abbr.)
39 Wagner opera
41 Bub
43 Seed
46 Jordan valley
48 Hard
49 Give
50 Flightless bird
51 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
52 Shak. contraction
53 As well as
54 Girl's name
55 Decoration
56 Bitter vetch

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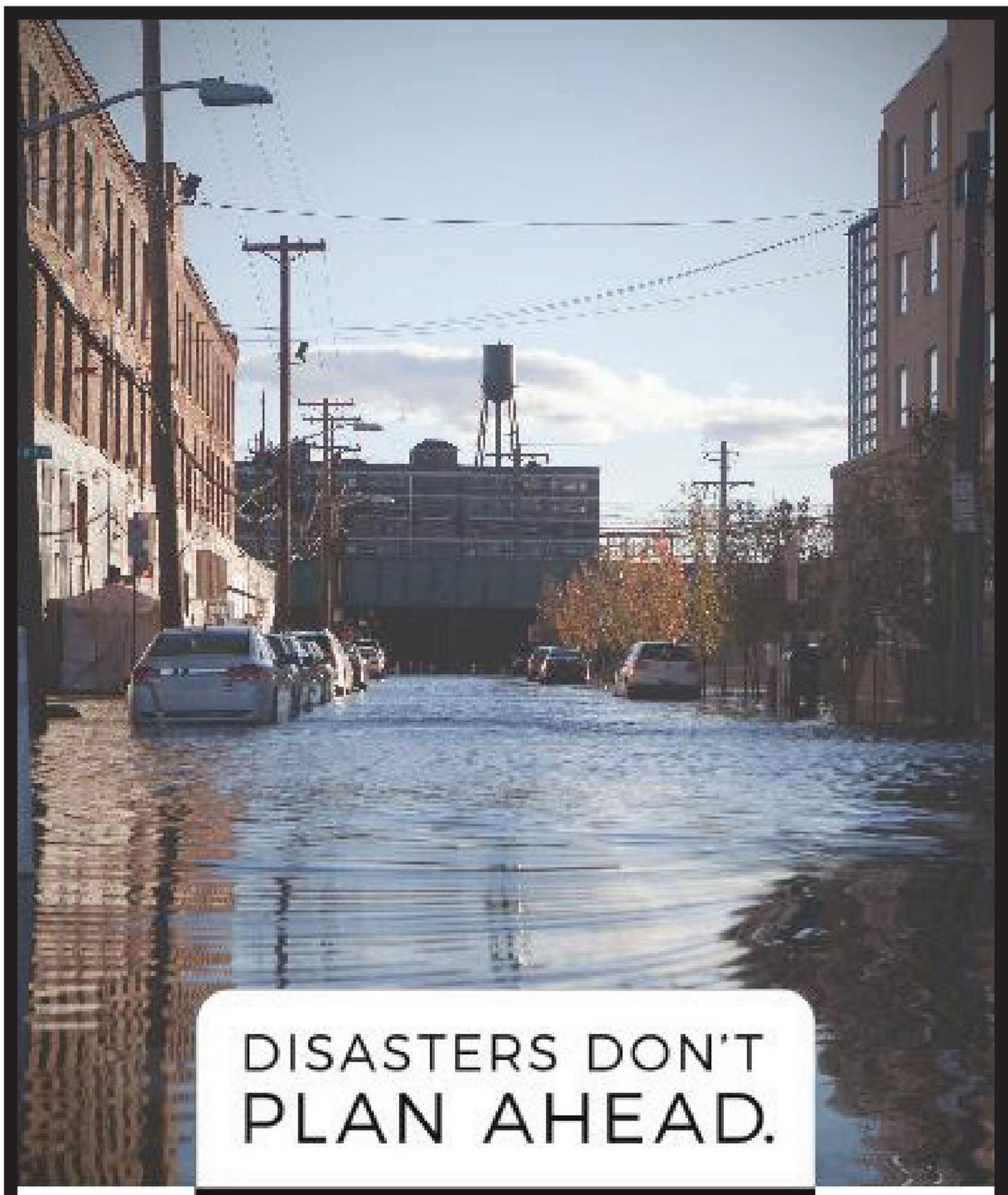

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‘Some Enchanted Evening III’ outdoor picnic-style concert coming next month

“Some Enchanted Evening III,” the School of American Music’s annual end-of-summer outdoor picnic-style concert, will take place at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, on Spring Creek Stage, 14 Maple Street in Three Oaks, facing Dewey Cannon Park.

The concert will feature the music of composer John Williams beautifully performed by the Michigan City Chamber Music String Quartet, including some interesting interpretations of famous soundtracks such as Jaws and Star Wars.

Eventgoers are invited to arrive prior to the concert to set up picnic dinner spreads, including blankets, tables and chairs. The lawn opens at 5 p.m. In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Vickers Theatre, in which case an announcement will be made.

“Some Enchanted Evening is not just a concert; it’s an opportunity to indulge in the magic of music while supporting a worthy cause.” said event organizer Marco Chavarry. “This is my third year organizing this event and I love the festive feel and party-like atmosphere we have created. Get ready to be transported into a world of enchantment and musical wonder while listening to the timeless melodies of legendary composer John Williams. This event promises to be an extraordinary blend of live orchestral performance, community gathering and philanthropy, all set against the backdrop of a beautiful evening under the stars.”

The event is sponsored by Neil Hackler from Engel & Volkers Realty, 6 Linden, Vickers Theatre, Graham Tree Services and New Buffalo Explored.

Tickets for the event are $50 and can be purchased online at SchoolofAmericanMusic.com/events-tickets or by calling 269-409-1191. Proceeds benefit the School of American Music’s Future Fund, the fundraising campaign to establish an endowment for the school. Every dollar donated to the Fund is matched by the Michiana Arts Foundation.

SAM is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

For more information or to donate, visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. — STAFF REPORTS

Charges in homicide reported years later by alleged killer

BY STAN MADDUX

Except for the killer, nobody apparently knew a Michigan City man was dead and his dismembered body disposed of in municipal trash cans in 2017.

Those are latest details coming to light in the case against Mark Hallett, who allegedly notified police close to five years later that he killed him.

Hallett, 48, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with murder and level 6 felony abuse of corpse.

He’s being held in a Massachusetts jail until returned to La Porte County for incarceration to wait for the case to be decided in court.

According to court documents, Hallett called Michigan City Police last year and claimed he killed an “old roommate” in late November of 2017 in a home they shared in the 1000 block of West 9th St.

Hallett said he and the victim, Paul Gonzales, were homeless until placed into the residence they shared by Housing Opportunities, a group with more than 200 low income housing units in LaPorte and Porter counties.

During an argument, he told police he struck the victim from behind with a crutch and choked him to death then allowed the body to lay on the basement floor for more than 50 days, according to court documents.

According to court documents, Hallett told investigators he dismembered the decomposing body with a hacksaw and placed the body parts in plastic bags disposed of in municipal trash cans.

Hallett told police he killed the 64-year-old Gonzales because he thought the victim was stealing his mail and trying to get him evicted from their home.

LaPorte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said the victim being transient apparently was not close enough to family members or friends who might raise questions about his whereabouts and report him missing, he said.

According to court documents, charges were filed after police spent about a year compiling evidence to try and substantiate the suspect’s claims.

Without a body, Fagan said police found no evidence of Gonzales ever making a rent or utility bill payment or cell phone call since his reported death.

Police also used a cadaver dog, which detected the presence of decomposition in the pores of the concrete floor in the basement where Hallett claimed the victim laid until he disposed of him, according to court documents.

Fagan said laboratory tests of the evidence gathered from the floor confirmed the material was from a decomposing human or animal.

“They tested the concrete so they were able to figure out some of this stuff,” he said.

Court records also revealed the two men were homeless for quite some time before being placed into the home.

Housing Opportunities has more than a dozen low income housing units in LaPorte and Michigan City and more than 200 similar housing units in Valparaiso and Portage.

The not-for-profit group is behind plans recently approved by the LaPorte City Council on Aug. 21.

Under the plan, 16 affordable housing units for the homeless will go into the old Coca Cola bottling plant in the 200 block of Rumely Street with a $7.5 million state grant.

City officials and other supporters touted the in house services planned for residents to address matters like behavioral and substance abuse issues along with job skills to help them get back on their feet.

Supporters also spoke highly about housing applicants being carefully screened and ban on anyone with a history of violent crimes against people and sex offenses.

Prior to the decision, residents near the new housing site expressed concerns about safety and declining property values in their single family home neighborhood.

They didn’t learn about the reported killing until several days after the council’s vote.

“It’s quite a shock. It’s just an unsafe feeling even more so now,” said Randy Milcoff, who lives in the neighborhood.

Another resident, Tammy Lorence, said she had heard only rumors about a slaying before the housing plans were approved.

“It’s just very alarming. It’s just all very disturbing. I’m at a loss for words,” she said.

Singers announces new director, start of rehearsals for Christmas concert

The Harbor Country Singers (HCS) community choir is pleased to welcome its new director, Maggie Martin, and will be starting rehearsals in late September for the annual Christmas concert.

The concert is planned for 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 2. All are welcome to join HCS and participate in the Christmas concert, which will be a blend of secular and sacred music.

Martin has been the piano accompanist for HCS since it started in 2016, and has assisted with directing throughout that time. She is a classically trained pianist and has 25 years experience in choral accompaniment. Martin is from Three Oaks and is a small business owner in Harbert. She is passionate about including all skill levels in choir and is excited to provide a space where all are welcome to sing and celebrate the holiday season.

The HCS meet and greet for new and current members will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26. There will be nine rehearsals for the concert: every Tuesday in October and November at 6:30 p.m. The meet and greet, the rehearsals and the concert will all take place at Episcopal Church of the Mediator at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert.

Harbor Country Singers Director Maggie Martin

"We're all very excited that Maggie has agreed to become the Harbor Country Singers director. She is an amazing musician and a great director. It's going to be so much fun to start rehearsals and prepare for and perform the Christmas concert." said Pat Putnam, HCS producer.

For more information, please text Maggie at 734-730-1126 or email her at maggiemartinpiano@gmail.com.

Harbor Country Singers is a program of the School of American Music and is supported by a grant from the Pokagon Fund. — STAFF REPORTS

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New Buffalo Area Schools Daycare gears up for opening day

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

According to Katharine Nicolai, "all children are wired to play."

"It's literally the job of the children," she said.

It also very well may be the motto for New Buffalo Area Schools Daycare, of which Nicolai is the director.

The daycare, which is located at 18732 Harbor Country Drive (in Water's Edge United Methodist Church), will open Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Hours will be from 7 a.m to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, although children can attend either part time or full-time. The daycare will follow the school calendar with regards to seasonal breaks.

New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said the district had lost employees because they were unable to work due to having to raise their children.

"So I just thought, 'Hey why can't we do something to help solve that problem not only for our employees but also the community of New Buffalo?'" he said.

Each room is stocked with toys, books and manipulative equipment, such as funnels and tubes, to create a holistic, play-based learning environment.

"When you have a kid who's excited and happy to be in a space, then you have a child who's open for learning and the whole learning process become very enjoyable and it builds a really strong foundation to raise curious minds to go out and enjoy learning," Nicolai said.

Each room has something that will engage "each child that lights them up and then build from there," she added.

The daycare is open to children who are 30 months to 4 years old by Sept. 1. One room is dedicated to the 30 months to 3 year old group. Another across the hall is dedicated to the 3 to 4 year old age level and is connected to the 4 year old room by a bathroom.

Outside, there's a mini playground full of more manipulative toys, such as a pulleys, funnels, ramps and benches.

"This is kind of the blank canvas out here as well that they can build on with their imagination between the students and the staff," Nicolai said.

Priority for the daycare registration was given first to employees of the school district. Nicolai said that priority is then given to those who have children who attend the school district, followed by opening it up to those who reside outside of it.

The daycare has two full time leads, one full time assistant and one part time assistant. Nicolai said that each of them have experience in the early childhood demographic. The 3-year-old lead, Kay Gutzman, has a background working with children with special needs.

Nicolai has an endorsement as a learning behavior specialist. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Columbia College. After raising her children, she went back to her get her masters in early childhood education, while co-teaching in Chicago Public Schools. For three years, she was the lead teacher in a "cluster classroom," which Nicolai said is "intense special education for kids 3 to 5 years."

A lot of the children were non-verbal, which was where Nicolai first witnessed the benefits of play-based learning.

"They're able to communicate through their activities, and I found that to be really important for the developing mind...It raises curious kids and curious kids tend to go on and ask big questions and solve big problems that the world benefits from," she said.

For more on New Buffalo Area Schools Daycare, call 269-469-2211, visit www.nbas.org or contact knicolai@nbas.org.

Director Katharine Nicolai, aid Amanda Follmar, 3-year-old lead Kay Gutzman and 4-year-old lead Shana Kirby stand in one of the rooms

Director Katharine Nicolai, aid Amanda Follmar, 3-year-old lead teacher Kay Gutzman and 4-year-old lead Shana Kirby stand in the outdoor area

Funnels, ramps and more interactive equipment fills the outdoor play area

The 3-to 4-year-old room is ready for play

The 30-month to 3-year-old room is ready for action

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